VICTORIA INCREASE IN BANK CLEARINGS

Makes Best Showing of All Canadian Cities For the Past Week

New York, April 17.—Bradstreet's weekly report on Canadian bank clearings:

Toronto—$21,519,000, dec. 13.8 p.c.
Vancouver—$3,176,000, dec. 8.5 p.c.
Quebec—$1,920,000, inc. 3.4 p.c.
Hamilton—$1,365,000, dec. 16.2 p.c.
St. John, N.B.—$1,302,000, inc. 12.6 per cent.
Victoria—$1,129,000, inc. 12.7 p.c.
Montreal—$28,665,000, dec. 2.5 p.c.
Winnipeg—$9,531,000, dec. 6.1 p.c.
Ottawa—$3,389,000, inc. 10.6 p.c.
Halifax—$1,602,000, inc. 1 per cent.
Calgary—$912,000, dec. 29.8 per cent.
London—$1,112,000, dec. 1.9 per cent.
Edmonton—$652,000, dec. 33 p.c.

Bradstreet's report on state of trade tomorrow will say: "In Canada the country roads are drying and collections show some improvement, due to the eastern demand, but wholesale and jobbing trade is quiet, especially in the eastern provinces. In the west seeding is active and immigration is heavy. Fall buying is small. Failures for the week ending April 16 number 29 as against 28 last week and 18 in the corresponding week a year ago."

Siberian Death Sentences.

Tobolsk, Siberia, April 16.—Death sentences were handed down today in the case of thirteen prisoners who were implicated in a recent prison riot in which a man was killed. The men were tried by a court martial.

Believe in Burglary Story.

Toronto, April 16.—Although the crown detectives claim to have proved that the alleged attempted bank robbery at Thornhill was the creation of a dream of Manager Barry's, induced by reading of the attempted bank robbery at St. David's, President Somers and General Manager Brougham of the Sterling bank, and private detectives, after a thorough investigation, are convinced that Henry's story is correct. Further investigation will be made, and a reward will probably be offered for the capture of the burglars.

TEES BRINGS NEWS FROM SEALING VESSEL

Allie I. Alger Seen by Steam Whaler Orion Off the Island Coast With 133 Skins

(From Saturday's Daily)

The steamer Tees, Capt. Townsend, which returned yesterday afternoon from Ahousaht, Clayoquot and way ports of the west coast of the island after a fast trip, brought news that the sealing schooner Allie I. Algar was spoken by the steam whaler Orion, sealing off the island coast on Tuesday. The Allie I. Alger had a low catch, a total of 133 sealskins. The Jessie, Capt. Voss, was expected at Banfield creek, but had not arrived before the steamer sailed. Richard Hall, who went to the west coast to meet the schooner, returned by the Tees from Banfield. Stores will be sent for the Jessie on the next trip of the steamer. The Libbie is also expected off the coast.

The passengers of the Tees included W. J. Sutton of Ucluelet, W. Marchant, customs inspector who went on a visit of inspection to the coast customs stations and others.

The Tees will sail again on Monday night for Cape Scott, Quatsino and way ports.

WHALER ORION IS TAKING MANY WHALES

Many Licenses Issued for Stations—Many More are Refused to Applicants

The steam whaler Orion has been getting a better daily average catch since the Tees made her last trip to west coast ports. News was brought by the coasting steamer on her return yesterday that the Orion, Capt. Balcom, took two whales on Tuesday and four on Wednesday. The weather was too heavy on Thursday for hunting.

A license for a whaling station on Queen Charlotte Islands was obtained last month by G. A. Huff of Alberni, according to advices brought by the Tees, and he is forming a company to operate a steam whaler from the northern island. No license is granted for territory within 100 miles of a whaling location already under license. The Ottawa government has given six licenses in British Columbia,, four of which are held by the Pacific Whaling station, two for the west coast of Vancouver Island, one for the Gulf of Georgia, and another for the northern mainland. The company has not yet taken any steps to build a station at the northern site, and, according to the terms of its license, granted last September, has until September, 1909, to begin operations. Dr. Frank Hall, of this city, was also granted a license in July last.

Licenses sought by many others for whaling stations at various points of the British Columbia coast, from Sooke harbor to the northern boundary, have been refused. Applications were made for sites at Nootka Sound, where a Halifax man sought to establish a station; three places on the Queen Charlotte islands, where sites were sought by a Victoria company; Macaulay island; Galiano island; Articlizable island; Cape Beale, Campbell island; Gulf of Georgia; Campania island; several points on both coasts of the Queen Charlottes; and at Sooke.

The Pacific Whaling Company expects a busy season this year, and preparations are being made for a big catch. At the Kyuquot station a force of sixty Indians have been signed, and the natives have practically removed their village to Narrow Cut creek, near the whaling depot. Last year a dividend of 25 per cent. on perferred stock and 18 per cent. on common stock was paid.

KESTREL RETURNS AFTER PLANTING THE LOBSTERS

About One-Third Died on Way to Sooke Where Balance Were Submerged in Crates

(From Saturday's Daily)

The fishery protection cruiser Kestrel was in port yesterday, after planting the lobsters brought from Halifax at Cooper's cove in Sooke harbor. The shipment, which numbered 1,620 when they were loaded in crates at the eastern port, were brought across the continent by Messrs. Cunningham and Finlayson, experts of the marine and fisheries department, who, with E. G. Taylor, local fisheries inspector, superintended the planting in crates, specially constructed here for this purpose, in Sooke harbor. About one-third of the lobsters had died during the trip across the country, and the survivors were placed in the large crates provided for them and submerged. The planting of the lobsters is an experiment to ascertain whether they can be sucessfully propagated in local waters.

The Kestrel will leave this morning for Nanaimo, and will thence proceed to Vancouver to resume her fishery protection work.

ATLANTIC LINERS WERE IN COLLISION

Monterey Ran Into the United States in New York Bay—Latter is Seriously Damaged

A New York dispatch says two ocean liners, the Monterey, of the Ward line, bound for Havana, and the Danish steamer United States, of the Scandinavian-American line, bound for Copenhagen, collided in the main ship channel in lower New York bay on Thursday night. Both vessels were damaged, but no lives were lost and no one, so far as reported, was injured. The Monterey had her stem badly damaged and several bow plates loosened, but she was able to return to her dock, where her passengers disembarked. They will be forwarded to Havana by another steamer for, it is probable she will have to go into drydock for repairs. The United States was more seriously damaged. A large hole was stove in her hold on the starboard side, about aft the engines, and it deemed wise to run her aground on a bank on the channel's edge. There the steamer is resting easily, the weather being clear and calm.

WOMAN THREW CHILD FROM OCEAN STEAMER

Mother Thought Off-Spring Was Dead But Surgeon Believes the Babe Was Alive

An extraordinary tale of the burial at sea of a child that may have been alive when thrown overboard was told by the officers of the steamer Standard when that vessel arrived today from Rotterdam and is reported in a dispatch received yesterday from New York. The child is said to have been thrown overboard by its own mother, Mrs. Bertha Lzybik, of Poland. She was coming to this country with two children, one of which became ill and apparently died. The other passengers of the steerage objected to the presence of the body on board and informed the mother that unless the child was thrown overboard a storm would overwhelm the vessel. About midnight the body of the child was thrown into the sea. Officers of the steamer soon discovered what had happened and the ship's surgeon, who made inquiries, is said to have expressed the fear that the child was merely in a comatose condition and might have been revived under medical treatment. Mrs. Lzybik was taken to Ellis island.

NEW PROJECTS TO BE TAKEN UP AT ONCE

Passing of Bylaws Enables Council to Immediately Deal With the Schemes

Now that the four money bylaws have been passed, it is expected by the aldermen that no time will be lost in pushing ahead the various projects to which the money will be devoted. Work on the sewer construction will be started at once as it is imperative that the plans already made should be completed owing to the many applications from various sections of the city for sewer service. The men recently laid off owing to the exhaustion of the sewer funds will be taken on again as soon as possible.

The salt water high pressure system will also be undertaken as soon as the necessary preliminary steps are taken. Alderman Fullerton stated yesterday that the work should be pushed ahead as fast as possible. If it is not obligatory on the council for tenders for the necessary pipes the contract could be given to the firm of Beverely Robertson & Co., of Montreal, which concern received the contract for the mains for the new domestic distribution system. The city has already appointed an inspector to see that the specifications of this contract are carried out at the Nottingham, England, mills, where the mains will be manufactured and it would mean a great saving in time if the high pressure pipes could be manufactured at the same time. The one inspector would thus be on the spot to oversee both jobs. If on the other hand the city must call for tenders for the pipes it will mean a considerable delay before the contract could be let.

It is probable that tenders will be called immediately for the supply of hose and other material provided for under the Additional Fire Protection bylaw, but these details will be considered in council.

Now that the estimates have been finally approved and all that is required is the final reconsideration and passing of the bylaw, other measures which have necessarily been held over will come up for consideration such as that providing for a scale of charges for patients at the isolation hospital in case where such patients can afford to pay, and also the other bylaw of Alderman Gleason to provide for the proper inspection of food.

FLOOD WATER PASSES

Great Falls Escapes Serious Damage—Heavy Losses Reported at Other Points

Great Falls, April 16.—The flood waters from Hauser Lake have reached here and are passing without inflicting any great damage. Dynamiting has deepened the river channel so that the water has risen to no greater height than during the spring floods.

Butte, Mont., April 16.—Late estimates of the loss occasioned by the bursting of the Hauser Lake dam north of Helena, based upon reports received by the Miner from various points in the flood district, place the amount at about $500,000. This may be exceeded by about $100,000 when a more detailed report issued from the remote sections.

The greatest damage outside of the destruction of the dam was done at Craig, forty miles north of Helena, where the school house, the railroad station, general stores, two saloons and several residences were torn up and wrecked. Losses of herds of cattle are also reported by stockmen.

REPORTED IROQUOIS WILL COME HERE

Rumor Has it That She Will be Brought Here and Registered as Canadian Steamer

The steamer Iroquois, the larger of the two steamers brought from the Great Lakes by the International Steamship company, is rumored to be the steamer selected by the Seattle company to be brought to Victoria. Thirty per cent of her value will have to be paid in duty to allow of the steamer being registered as a British vessel, if the company does not alter its plans to place a steamer in opposition to the Princess Victoria on the Victoria-Vancouver route. Rumor also has it that the Union Steamship company of Vancouver has been contemplating a service between the two ports. Of both these rumors no confirmation can be secured.

If the steamer Iroquois was sent here and registered as a Canadian vessel at the port of Victoria, this action would not preclude her being returned at any time under the United States flag. Had she been a British-built vessel, however, it would have been impossible for her to revert again to an American register after being placed under the British flag.

VICTORIA ALLURING TO BRITISH IN EAST

Various Considerations Make Its Appeal Stronger Than That of the Homeland

British Columbia, and Victoria in particular, as a place for the white man who earns a competency in the Orient and seeks a place to take up his abode, away from the alien peoples of the East is suggested by the Japan Herald of Yokohama of recent date, in the following article, which appears in the paper of March 20:

"What Englishman is there in Yokohama that does not at times feel that he would like from time to time to have a run home, and live for a while in a white man's country? And yet England is a very long way off; to go by sea takes time, and though the transsiberian railway has brought Yokohama and London much closer to one another, the fatigues of the long railway journey have a deterrent effect upon many minds, for, in spite of all comforts and luxuries, a fortnight in a train is an undoubtedly wearisome undertaking.

Or again, what Englishman, resident in Yokohama or elsewhere, does not look forward to the time when, his modest pile having been made, he may retire from the land of increasing taxation, exorbitant rents and unsatisfactory servants, to the peace and tranquility which he dreams of as inseparable from a white man's country. And yet he must know all the while that his quarter of a century in the Far East has absolutely unfitted him for life in England, that his vacant place has long ago been filled, and that he can only look forward to being a stranger in the land of his birth.

Or, again, our Englishman in Yokohama has committed matrimony, and there is a growing tribe o boys and girls who mutely ask him to send them to school and start them out in the world. But English schools are proverbially dear, and the price of butcher's meat in Yokohama "to say nothing of the income tax," makes paterfamilas hesitate before venturing to face the long separation from his offspring. Then an English school is not always the best school for the boy who has to face life as a poor man, and everything in England is so overstocked and crowded that there seems but little hope of making a good start in life. There is no use in taking goods to an overstocked market.

And so the Englishman in Yokohama whether bent on pleasure or seeking retirement from active business, or looking out for a place suitable for the education of his children, looks at England with longing eyes, and in the end decides that England is not quite the place for him.

The Lure of Victoria.

Then there comes a tempting voice from across the Pacific ocean: "We don't want Japanese," says the voice, "we get along fairly well with the few Chinamen we've got. But we want 'you' in our beautiful. Columbian land of the 'British variety.' We are your nearest neighbors and we are your kinsmen. Come across to us, when you want a holiday,—it won't take you much time to cross the Pacific,—and we will let you have any sort of sport that your soul desires,—lots of it and of excellent quality. Come across to us when you want to retire from this wicked world with your hard-earned pile. We have a charming city on our great island—a city as English as England herself, with excellent climate, nice society, moderate prices and light taxation. If you can't content yourself with Victoria, B.C., as a home for your declining years 'more especially if Yokohama has helped you to make a pile,' I very much doubt whether you will find contentment even in the city with gates of pearls.

"And don't forget, when you are thinking about the education of your children, that we in Victoria can give you any sort of education you want. You can send them to our state schools where education is free; if you want a more select atmosphere for your boy, with a great deal of that healthy tone which is one of the glories of the English public school, you can get it at one of the excellent private schools of which Victoria is so justly proud. We can look after your girls as well as your boys, and when their school days are over we can give them a good send-off in life, with abundance of remunerative work for anyone that is industrious and energetic."

British Columbia has hitherto lagged far behind her sister provinces of the Dominion of Canada in the matter of material progress, for her geographical position has cut her off from the Atlantic ocean, which has hitherto been the highway of the world's commerce. But things are changing with extraordinary rapidity. The commerce of the Pacific states will soon rival that of the Atlantic, and the importance, political, strategical and commercial, of British Columbia is now recognized on all hands. The province has vast resources awaiting development, both agricultural and mineral; and her forest wealth and fishery capabilities are alike enormous. She is connected with the eastern portions of the American continent by several lines of railway now in active operation, and one more is in process of construction which will open the corn lands of N.W. Canada to the Pacific trade, and provide a shorter route than any now existing from American to Asiatic shores. Above all, she has a healthy, homogeneous population of British extraction, full of activity and vigor, and bent on establishing on sound foundations the prosperity of their adopted home. With all these things in her favor,—the opportunity, the resources, and the race of men fitted to make use of both,—there can be no doubt that it is the evident destiny of British Columbia within a very short time to play a very considerable part in the world's history. And this, let us add for the benefit of those who are casting about for a permanent home for themselves and families, means for those who live there prosperity and opportunities of acquiring honestly gotten wealth.

Paper Pays Damages.

Quebec, April 14.—The paper La Vigie was tonight condemned to pay Alderman Nuard $600 damages for statements which reflected on his personal character, made in December, 1906, during the early closing campaign.

An Edmonton Blaze.

Edmonton, April 14.—One of the most difficult fires that the city brigade has had to fight for many months broke out this morning shortly before ten o'clock in the C.N.R. livery and feed barns on First street. They were occupied by Dobell Bowman, the proprietor of the stables and the owner is A. York who has the buildings well covered by insurance

Bloody Affray In Russia.

St. Petersburg, April 15.—A sensational prison-breaking is reported from Penz, which resulted in ten deaths. Eleven political prisoners attacked and stabbed two wardens to death. They then threw a number of bombs and escaped from the prison in the confusion. Guards hastily gave pursuit and shot eight of the men dead.

Dam at Coquitlam.

New Westminster, April 16.—Managing Director Buntzen, of the British Columbia Electric Railway, held a conference with the city council here yesterday afternoon to discuss the necessity of erecting a new dam at Lake Coquitlam. Mr. Buntzen agreed that it was necessary, the present one being but a temporary affair. He will recommend the erection of a dam of the best construction to be put up this year.

To Protect Lake Shore.

Toronto, April 16.—The ratepayers of this city will be asked on June 27 to vote on a bylaw to raise $712,000 for the purpose of constructing a seawall from Bathurst street to the Humber.

VICTORIA BOY WON SOCCER MARATHON

Fred Baylis of Local Y. M. C. A. Ran Away From Big Field in Vancouver

Vancouver, April 17.—Satisfied with second place for three-quarters of the distance, Frank Baylis, of the Victoria Y.M.C.A., and the only entry from the Capital city, shot ahead in the Soccer Marathon race here today and getting a splendid lead of one hundred and fifty yards maintained it to the finish and won the magnificent cup offered by Con. Jones of the National Sports club, and traveled the hard race in 34 minutes 5 3-5 seconds.

Ten men entered the race, which was one of the most exciting ever seen in this city, and a big crowd saw the candidates start and finish the five and three-quarter mile course. It was heavy going all of the way and the time and speed that the winner made were surprising.

Ashley, of the Vancouver Nationals, cut out the pace at the start and with Baylis close at his heels and holding himself well in hand for the stretch. Upon arriving at Mount Pleasant Baylis let out at a terrific clip and showed a pair of heels to his nearest opponent and crossed the tape in grand shape after showing splendid judgment all the way. Ashley finished second and Stacey, of the Shamrocks, third.

The strain of the race may be judged by the effect of the tussle on Stacey, who became delirious shortly before the finish and after crossing the line went raving mad and was removed to the hospital, where fears are entertained for his regaining consciousness.

Baylis crossed the line in easy fashion and was almost as fresh as when he started. His magnificent condition and splendid judgment and staying powers are responsible for the showing he made and at no stage of the race was the result in doubt.

E. M. Whyte, of Victoria, looked after Baylis' interest and coached him in the race and seemed to be greatly elated with the result of the contest. Mr. Whyte states that Baylis is undoubtedly the fastest distance man in Victoria and an effort will be made in that city to have him enter the elimination trials for the London games when they are held in this province.

ALLANS' CONTRACT FOR FRENCH SERVICE

Get $100,000 Per Year For Making Eighteen Round Trips to France

Montreal, April 17.—H. & A. Allan have been awarded the contract for the Franco-Canadian steamship line, rendered necessary by the new French treaty.

They are to receive $100,000 per year, and for this the boats of the Allan line are to make 18 round trips, with the option of making 36 round trips if the business warrants. A part of the contract is that freight rates shall not be higher than those between the United States and Europe. The Corinthian and Sicilian will be used on the service.

The Allans have been operating the French service for the last two years, but the contract expired on the first of the present month.

RUSSIAN PROPOSALS REGARDING BALKANS

Foreign Minister is Hopeful of Its Acceptance By All the Powers

St. Petersburg, April 17.—Foreign Minister Iswolsky today delivered to the Douma his long expected statement regarding the Balkan situation. He said he was not able to chronicle any definite achievement toward the settlement of the Macedonian problem, but that the loyal support of the Russian programme by Austria-Hungary, Germany, Italy and France and its partial approval by Great Britain, was full of promise. The Russian plan, the foreign minister continued, contained neither egotistic designs nor dangerous innovations, and it could be put into execution without danger of bringing on a great conflict.

Cotton Firm in Difficulties

Liverpool, April 15.—Leech, Harrison & Forward, cotton merchants of Liverpool, have written a letter to the secretary of the Liverpool Cotton association saying they regretted that they had had to place their affairs in the hands of Harwood, Banner & Son, accountants.

NEW PAPAL DECREE REGARDING MARRIAGES

Comes Into Force on Easter Sunday — Catholic Rules Respecting Matrimony

(From Saturday's Daily)

Beginning with tomorrow, Easter Sunday, the new papal decree as to the marriages of Catholics will come into force. Its effect in brief is that all Catholics must be married by a Romn Catholic priest or the marriage will be treated as non-existent by the Roman church. This is, of course, a serious matter as a couple who live together unmarried, and this is how irregularly married couples will be considered, are denied all the sacraments and rites of the church, nor is their burial in consecrated ground permitted.

n the past marriages performed by ministers of other faiths, and even civil marriages at which no clergyman has officiated, have been recognized by the Roman Catholic church in Canada, but dating from tomorrow such recognition will be refused. The new rule applies equally to two Roman Catholics marrying and to a Roman Catholic marrying a Protestant. It should be added that the rule does not in any way refer to marriages which have already been consummated, but only to ceremonies performed on and after tomorrow.

A prominent eastern cleric recently explained the Roman Catholic doctrine regarding marriages in connection with an announcement of the new decree. He said in part:

"The Pope, as sovereign head of the Catholic church, which is a perfect society, established by Christ, has the right to make such laws as are conducive to the happiness and well being of the members of the Catholic church. This power over the whole church is vested in the Pope alone. A bishop may make laws for his diocese, a parish priest cannot for his parish. A bishop must not make any laws which run counter to the laws promulgated by the Pope. Circumstances change very much. Discipline may change. Doctrine cannot change. We cannot add or take from the fulness of the doctrine of Christ. The new marriage law is a mere matter of discipline.

"An engagement to be valid must contain the free promise and mutual consent of the two parties. The engagement must be in writing by both parties and signed by the bishop, or the vicar-general or the parish priest or two laymen. If one or both of the parties cannot write, this fact is to be noted in the document, and another witness is to be added, who will sign with the parties already mentioned. So that if banns are published, and an interested party objects under the plea of a prior engagement, the church will demand the papers to prove that prior engagement. Without these conditions that engagement is null and void.

"Any parish priest can validly marry a couple from any parish in the world providing he performs the ceremony within the limits of his own parish. He may marry validly in the church, or in the house, or even in the street. The parish priest who would thus marry a couple, neither of them of his parish, sins if he celebrates without the permission of the bishop, vicar-general or the parish priest of one or both of the parties. If one of the parties reside thirty days within a parish, the priest of said parish can marry them not only validly but lawfully, and the ceremony is a real and true marriage.

"A Catholic who has left the church is held as a Catholic for this particular case. The marriages of Protestants, among Protestants, the church leaves them alone. She leaves them to their own rules and regulations, and if they should later on enter the Catholic church there will be no question of the validity of their marriage, as far as the presence of the priest is concerned.

"Mixed marriages are lawful when a parish priest performs them within the limits of his parish. To be lawful a dispensation must be obtained from the bishop, who only grants it for very serious reasons. These marriages are governed by the same laws as Catholic marriages, except in Germany. In the German empire a mixed marriage by the magistrate, judge, squire or minister is valid and binding. No one can force a parish priest to perform the ceremony, otherwise it will be null and void.

"Matrimony," concluded the speaker, "is a contract instituted by God from the beginning of the world; it is therefore a sacred and a religious contract and is of a far higher nature than any other contract common amongst men. This contract already sacred and holy, was raised by Christ to the dignity of a sacrament. Therefore amongst Christians, marriage is an essentially religious act, a source of grace and sanctification."

Caught by Cave-in.

New Westminster, April 16.—A cave-in of earth at the excavations for the new reservoir in Queen's Park yesterday was the cause of a serious accident, Duncan McLean being the victim. McLean was working under a ledge of hard-pan when the mass fell upon him, almost burying him alive, but he escaped with only a severe fracture of the right leg.

Imperialist Journal.

London, April 15.—The West Indian club gave a banquet tonight to its secretary, W. A. Goode, on the occasion of his departure to Canada to start an imperialist journal. Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, high commissioner for Canada, extended to Mr. Goode a welcome to that country. Joseph Chamberlain sent a message from Cannes wishing him success.

Ottawa Street Railway.

Ottawa, April 15.—The receipts of the Ottawa electric street railway company have fallen away considerably this year. The earnings some days do not equal those of the corresponding days of last year, despite the city's growth.

UNDER "BLACK HAND" BAN

A Seattle Paper Discovers a Plot Against Local Police Officer

(From Saturday's Daily)

The "Black Hand" is after Detective George Perdue. That aggregation of Italian blackmailers and assassins have turned their attention towards the local police officer and what the consequences will be will only be known when the dread society delivers its blow. Detective Perdue, as yet, does not know his danger but a Seattle paper, with the enterprise usually credited to the journals of Uncle Sam's domain, has unearthed the dire plot.

On his return from San Francisco whither he went to bring back Lugi Donero, the Italian, wanted here for the robbery from Tony Paravincini of $1,440 on November 28, when with two other fellow countrymen it is alleged he victimized Tony by one of the oldest of confidence games, Detective Perdue passed through Seattle. None of the newspaper men of the sound city interviewed him nor did they take the trouble to warn the unsuspecting police officer of his danger, but in the paper the following day, the public were told how Detective Perdue had received threatening letters from the Black Hand society which warned him to drop the case against Dondero or suffer the consequences. What these were to be was left to the imagination of Detective Perdue, or rather to that of the journalist who unearthed the plot.

Detective Perdue who is looking remarkably fit after his two months trip south was surprised to learn that the Black Hand society was after his life. He admitted that he has never had even a speaking acquaintance with that organization and was quite willing to be friendly.

"It's a new one on me" laughed the officer. "I fancy sensations are scarce across the border just now."

HELD ON SUSPICION OF INCENDIARISM

May Face Charge of Attempting to Fire Spencer's Store

(From Saturday's Daily)

David Spencer Limited had a narrow escape from fire on Thursday evening about six o'clock. Two of the employees noticed a smell of smoke coming from the basement. On exploring the room in the basement where a reserve stock of staples was kept, they found some pieces of canton flannel on fire. They quickly smothered it with a pair of blankets. The damage done is trifling, but had the smoke remained unnoticed for a few minutes longer it would have been much more difficult to subdue. It transpires that shortly before the fire was noticed, the porter saw a former employee of the firm came up from the basement, where he had no business at that time, and as a result of the suspicions of the police, he has been arrested and may have to face a charge of attempted incendiarism.

The man went to work at the store in August of last year and left the employ of the company last January. On Thursday afternoon he had been drinking and was sent home from the hotel, where he had secured employment by his immediate superior about five o'clock. Shortly before six he was seen coming out of the basement of the store, leaving the building by the Broad street entrance, and going to the doorway of the Times building, where he stood for a minute or two. He then went round to the front of the store by Trounce alley and went into Hibben's bookstore. From there he went to the Belmont saloon, where he had some drinks. After that he took the car for his lodgings on Michigan street. When arrested by the police he was in bed and asleep, and was still to some extent under the influence of liquor. He admitted that he had been taking "a few brandies," but denied having been near Spencer's store that day. He is also said to have given contradictory accounts of his movements on Thursday afternoon and evening.

While the authorities believe that he is the man responsible for the fire, there is considerable doubt as to whether it was done deliberately or whether it was the result of drunken carelessness. In the meantime the police are making further enquiries as to his movements.

John Charlton Dying.

Lynedoch, Ont., April 15.—John Charlton, long a member of the House of Commons for North Norfolk, is so ill that recovery is not expected. Mr. Charlton is 70 years of age, but until recently was in robust health.

House Vote on Navy

Washington, April 15.—Representative Hobson's amendment to the naval appropriation bill, providing for four battleships instead of two, as reported by the naval committee, was defeated by the House, 79 to 190. The result was received with loud applause.

"Queer" Money for Revolution.

New York, April 14.—Joseph M. Giordani, an agent of the Firmin revolutionists in the United States, was sentenced today to six months at hard labor in Sing Sing prison for having counterfeit Haytien money in his possession. He was placed in the custody of U. S. Marshal Henkel until May 15. Giordani was having the Haytien notes printed in New York to finance a revolution.

WHERE SOME FISH FOR MARKET FEED

Unsanitary Condition of Affairs Revealed by City Official —Menace to Health

Where Victoria gets some portion of its food supplies is a question on which the investigations of Sanitary Inspector Lancaster has recently thrown some light and the facts obtained have proven anything but satisfactory to that official. It has been found that part of the fish diet taken by many Victorians could hardly be more unsanitary and the practice of residents purchasing from peddlars and some small stores where no regard is paid to the sanitary arrangements, dangerous in the extreme from a health standpoint.

A few days ago the sanitary inspector unearthed a condition of affairs which called for instant action. At present there are a considerable number of Japanese and Chinese fishermen who have been making a livelihood by selling fish in the city. They have been in the habit of storing their catches in a species of storage pen on the shore of the harbor directly under the mouth of a sewer which empties into the harbor near the city electric light works. There the fish were held and the supply drawn upon as required. The sanitary inspector's attention was drawn to the spot by the discovery, in a Chinese shop, of a quantity of almost decayed fish and further investigation disclosed the apparent channels of supply. In appition to the sewerage there were also a number of dead rats, a cat or two and other unsavory articles floating about, the only source of food for the imprisoned fish.

While there was nothing to prove that these fish were being sold, though there could be little doubt but that such was the case, the sanitary inspector felt quite safe in concluding that the place was not being run as an aquarium.

Strict orders were given to the fishermen that such a condition of affairs would be allowed to continue no longer but a sort of compromise was made whereby the fishermen were allowed to store the live fish in crates anchored out in the deep water in the harbor where the refuse matter could not be obtained as food.

Drowned in St. Lawrence

Brockville, Ont., April 16.—Thomas Hazelton and James Chinsmore were drowned in the St. Lawrence river about ten miles west of here last night. They left Alexandria bay in a small gasoline skiff and when near Goose bay a storm of sleet and snow struck them, capsizing the boat. Hazelton was married.

Hotel Stables Burned.

Mattawa, Ont., April 16.—Five large stables and storehouses of the Mattawa hotel were destroyed by fire yesterday. Two supposed tramps jumped from the top of one of the stables, having been burned and hurt in their escape from the flames. They are now in the hospital. Some valuable cattle perished.

Sheriff of Hastings.

Toronto, April 17.—M. B. Morrison, Conservative member for West Hastings in the legislature, has been appointed sheriff of Hastings county.

Filthy Police Cells.

Hamilton, Ont., April 16.—T. H. Pratt, a well-known business man, has complained to the police commissioners that the cells in No. 7 police station are not fit to put a dog in.

Royal City Debentures Sold.

New Westminster, April 14.—Ald. Jardine, chairman of the finance committee, received a telegram from Mayor Keary yesterday, informing him that the Sixth avenue sewer debentures had been placed at par without trouble. The debentures are to run twenty years at 5 per cent.

Quebec Battlefields Plans.

Quebec, April 15.—It is officially announced that funds raised for the battlefield scheme will be applied solely to the work of redeeming and beautifying the battlefields of the Plains of Abraham and St. Foye.

Earl Grey at Washington.

Washington, April 15.—Earl Grey, Governor-General of Canada; British Ambassador Bryce and others were guests of President Roosevelt at luncheon today. The French ambassador and Madame Jusserand entertained at a large dinner at the embassy tonight, in compliment to the Governor-General of Canada and Lady Grey. Among the other guests were the British ambassador and Mrs. Bryce.

Nelson's Chief Dismissed.

Nelson, B.C., April 15—Peter O'Carroll, who was appointed chief of police last September, when the whole force resigned over their treatment by the then police commissioners, was today dismissed from the force for conduct of a highly reprehensible nature, the board refusing to accept O'Carroll's resignation. C. W. Young has been appointed acting chief of police.

Delaware Democrats.

Dover, Del., April 14.—Despite the written declaration of Judge Gray that he could not under any circumstances consent to have the delegates instructed for him. The Deleware Democratic state convention today officially placed his name before the Democracy of the country for the party's nomination for the President of the United States. The platform declared for states' rights criticizes the national administration and declares for a revision of the tariff.

STARTS NEW SERVICE

Blue Funnel Line Sends Steamers in Direct Run From Liverpool to Hankow

The Blue Funnel line has established another steamship service to the far east, a direct line from Liverpool to Hankow and Shanghai, the first steamer of which, the Laertes, is now on the way and due at Hankow about the end of next week. Further improvements to the Holt service are contemplated. The company's steamers, it is reported, do more than fifty per cent of the aggregate trade of all the lines plying between Great Britain, Continental ports and the Orient.

"I didn't kick him, I made a motion with my foot, and he lay down and cried," said a man who was remanded at West London recently on a charge of assault.